

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Are there bonuses or incentives available if I join the RC?**

Yes. A Soldier **may** qualify for one or more of the following incentives listed below. See your Reserve Component Career Counselor (RCCC) to determine eligibility:

a. Affiliation Bonus: Soldiers that enlist/transition into the ARNG or USAR in their current MOS who have less than 20 years of service **may be** eligible to receive an affiliation bonus.

b. Prior Service Enlistment Bonus: Soldiers that enlist/transition into a Reserve Component who have less than 16 years of service **may be** eligible to receive a PS bonus.

c. Student Loan Repayment Program: Soldiers that enlist/transition into the ARNG or USAR who have not previously received Student Loan Repayment Program **may be** eligible for repayment of student loans up to \$20,000.

### **2. Is it possible to reduce my Military Service Obligation (MSO) by joining the ARNG or USAR?**

Yes, for select MOS's. Soldiers that enlist/transition into a Reserve Component in their current MOS **may be** eligible to have their MSO reduced (1-month reduced for each month served) up to a maximum of 24 months reduced MSO.

### **3. Does the USAR and ARNG offer a Deployment Stabilization Policy and is it guaranteed?**

The USAR offers a guaranteed 24-month Deployment Stabilization for all AC Soldiers transitioning into a USAR TPU unit. Some States offer ARNG deployment stabilization while others do not and the length of deployment stabilization varies from state to state. Your RCCC can answer any specific state deployment stabilization questions.

### **4. Can I maintain Tricare for myself and my family if I join the ARNG or USAR?**

Yes. Reserve Component Soldiers may enroll in TriCare Select (TRS) once in drilling status. The first 6 months of TRS and dental insurance will be free under Transitional Health Care (TAMP) and after that, the Soldier incurs the costs. See TRS website, <http://www.tricare.mil/trs> and <http://www.tricare.mil/dental/tdp.aspx> for current Single and Family rates.

### **5. Am I eligible for Federal Tuition Assistance as a reserve Component Soldier?**

Yes. Effective 1 Jan 14, Soldiers will be eligible for TA upon successfully completing one year of service following graduation from either AIT, OCS or BOLC. You can take up to 16 semester hours of TA-funded courses per year and can use TA for a graduate degree once you have 10 years of service. If TA did not pay for any portion of your undergraduate degree, the 10-year policy does not apply. You will continue to receive up to \$250 per semester hour for up to 130 semester hours for completion of a bachelor's degree and up to 39 semester hours for completion of a master's degree. This will permit Soldiers to complete one degree at the undergraduate or graduate level. TA cannot be used for a lower or lateral degree, nor can it be used for first-professional degrees, e.g., PhD, MD or JD.

### **6. Can I reclass into another MOS?**

Yes. A Soldier **may be** eligible for reclassification into new MOS based on their individual qualifications, MOS requirements, and ARNG/USAR organizational needs.

## **7. How soon after discharge do I have to report to my unit?**

All Soldiers are required to report to their units NLT 30 days after their ETS.

## **8. If I join the RC, can I be fired from my civilian job if I miss work due to training?**

No. Members absent from civilian employment because of training or uniformed service are protected under FEDERAL LAW. Employers must allow weekend assemblies and the two week Annual Training without the employee being made to use vacation time. <http://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Who-is-ESGR/What-is-ESGR.aspx>

## **9. Does my Active Duty service count towards a RC retirement?**

Yes. Soldiers who have completed 20 years of service in the Reserve Component (to include active service) receive pay and benefits beginning at age 60. Pay is based on total points accrued during active duty and reserve component participation. [https://www.hrc.army.mil/tagd/reserve component retirements](https://www.hrc.army.mil/tagd/reserve%20component%20retirements)

## **10. Whom should I contact if I am interested in joining the RC?**

Answer: You should see your local installation Reserve Component Career Counselor (RCCC). Please click here to locate your local RCCC. [https://www.hrc.army.mil/tagd/reserve component retirements](https://www.hrc.army.mil/tagd/reserve%20component%20retirements)

## **11. Do RC Soldiers conduct PT during weekend drills?**

Answer: Yes, you should prepare to conduct APRT during Weekend Battle Assemblies. Reserve Soldiers are required to maintain the Army standards.

## **12. Will I be able to use my Active duty MGI/Post 9-11 GI Bill if I join the Army Reserve or the Army National Guard?**

Answer: Yes. Joining a Reserve Component does not affect your earned educational benefits. In fact, you may be eligible to earn more benefits.

## **13. Am I able to claim VA disability and serve in a Reserve Component?**

Answer: Yes, there is however, a limit allowed and your disability cannot prevent you from performing fully in your MOS. Please click here for more information [www.benefits.va.gov/compensation](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation)

## **14. What is the difference between the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard?**

Answer: While the Army Reserve and Army National Guard are both reserve components, the Army Reserve remains a federal force only, while the Army National Guard is a state-led force unless called into federal service. Please click these links for more information: [www.usar.army.mil](http://www.usar.army.mil) or [www.nationalguard.com](http://www.nationalguard.com)

## **15. How do promotions work in the Reserves/Guard?**

Answer: AR 600-8-19 governs Reserve Component promotions, which is the same regulation used in the Regular Army. However, there are some differences in how boards are conducted and promotions executed. For example, promotions in the Reserve Component are based on position availability. As positions become available through normal attrition, those best qualified are promoted